

As this session of Congress moves forward, it is my hope that both issues will be addressed. Certainly the Indian physicians who come here next week for the legislative conference will go around to the various congressional offices and explain why managed care reform and objective criteria for international medical graduates is something that they should all support in the interests of the American people.

UPDATE ON THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE INVESTIGATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as we close this week, I thought I would inform my colleagues and anyone else who may be paying attention that, regarding the investigation that I am charged to chair involving illegal foreign campaign contributions and the possibility of people in very high offices of this country breaking the law, we are now up to 89 people, 89 people who have been associates or friends of the President or political allies or contributors, 89 people have either taken the fifth amendment or fled the country.

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A lot of my colleagues have asked me about the progress of our investigation. I tried to explain to them that we are making some headway. Charlie Trie, one of the friends of the President who had fled the country and gone to China, has now returned. He is under indictment and we believe there is negotiations going on with him of a plea bargaining nature, but we are not sure about that. The fact of the matter is there has been an indictment of Mr. Trie, a personal friend and associate of the President. We have a number of others that we believe ultimately will face indictment.

But the biggest problem we face with the investigation is getting people to talk to us. Toward that end, we have asked the President to contact people who have fled the country to come back and appear before the committee so that they can help us get to the bottom of all these allegations. So far the White House, the President and the White House, has not been cooperative in asking foreign governments to insist that these people return. We have got James and Mochtar Riady in Indonesia whom we would like to have come back. We have asked for the assistance of the White House in convincing these gentlemen, who are executives of the Lippo Corporation and friends of the President in Indonesia, to help us get them back. So far we have had no cooperation.

We have asked the President and the State Department to work with us to get people back from other countries like China. We have not had that success. As a matter of fact, the Chinese

government would not let my investigators even get a visa to come to China to investigate these allegations of illegal activities.

So we are having a difficult time. The President I understand is going to be going to China before too long. There will be Members of Congress, I understand, accompanying him. I would like to urge the President to postpone his trip until China allows my investigators to go in there and to give them visas so that they can do the job that they have been charged by the Congress to do.

Mr. Speaker, I hope if the President or any of his friends at the White House or any of his colleagues here in Congress happen to be paying attention, I hope they will urge him to send a message to China that any diplomatic missions to China will be deferred until we get some cooperation from the Chinese government regarding our investigation. I think it is unbelievable that all the trade that we do with China, all the business that we do with China, all the breaks we have given to China, even in spite of their human rights violations, which are legion, they will not cooperate by allowing our investigators to have a visa to get into China.

Mr. Speaker, I will just end up by saying that we want to get to the bottom of all this to finish this investigation as quickly as possible. If the President would just come forward and talk to us, if his friends would not take the Fifth Amendment and would come forward and talk with us, we could conclude the investigation rapidly. I would urge all those involved to give us their cooperation so we can get it concluded. That is what the American people want.

REPORT ON THE CAPITAL CITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the House a report on the capital of the United States and its progress in relieving itself of financial and management distress.

Mr. Speaker, this House has had, and justifiably so, a special interest in its capital city. Almost 3 years ago the capital of the United States met the same fate as several large cities before it, as Cleveland, as New York, and as Philadelphia. The capital found that its bonds were no longer at investment grade and it could no longer borrow money without the assistance of a control board. To its credit, this House, working in a bipartisan fashion, passed a bill, very much like bills that had been passed to assist other cities who had met such problems. That bill preserved self-government in the District of Columbia, but as a result of quarrels between city officials and the control

board and as a result of a pace that perhaps was too slow in fixing the city's problems, the Congress, largely through the appropriation committees, infringed upon self-government in the District of Columbia. And so we have a strange situation to be sure.

The capital of the United States has less democracy than any other piece of American soil. I know that this body joins me in wanting to assure that this state of affairs does not last much longer. I have indicated to my own constituents in the District of Columbia that, though they have every reason to be outraged that there would be any less democracy here than elsewhere, there is only one way to assure that democracy will be restored and that we will go further and have the same level of democracy as the States and the territories, and that is for the city to quickly bring itself to the point where particularly its services and operations are services that the residents of the District of Columbia, first and foremost, can be proud of, that every American would be proud of, and that of course this Congress would be proud of.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that it is my obligation to keep this body informed of whether or not progress is indeed being made, especially since this body and the other body were concerned that progress had been too slow. Very substantial changes are beginning to occur and very substantial progress is beginning to be made, Mr. Speaker. Therefore, it is my intention to come to the floor sometimes in 5-minute debate period, sometimes in one-minute debate period, and sometimes for a special order debate period, as today, and report to this body on progress that is being made.

Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago I came to report that the District was actually experiencing a surplus 2 years ahead of when the District budget was supposed to be balanced on an annual basis under congressional mandate. I reported that in a 1-minute speech before the House and I noted that Members on both sides of the aisle applauded, and I remember saying, only half jokingly, Mr. Speaker, let the record show that this body applauded for the District of Columbia. I know that this body will indeed applaud when the capital city of the United States is brought back to its full majesty.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin with a report not of the surplus and what it contains, not of the large picture, but, rather, of a small part of the picture that I think would especially please this body. Of all of the services in the District of Columbia, none has the attention or perhaps deserves the attention that this body has given to education. This body knows where to focus on when it looks to see whether the city is improving, and so it has looked at the schools and it has looked at education.

Mr. Speaker, on the front page of the Washington Times, just yesterday, I